

**Notes from the Communities of The Level Forum (CoTLF) meeting –
Tuesday 9 July 2013**

Held at the Salvation Army, Brighton, 6-7.30pm

Present:

| Name | Representing group (if appropriate) |
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| Linda Anglin (LA) | Project Manager, Level Restoration (BHCC) |
| Michael Bairstow (MB) | Community member |
| Siobhan Bostock | Community Safety Caseworker (BHCC) |
| Mat Cook (MC) | Cook the Rabbit Events / Friends of The Level |
| Alan Cooke | U3A/Craven Vale Residents' Association |
| Scott Crossley (SC) | Equinox Care |
| Gareth Davies (GD) | Central Brighton Neighbourhood Policing Team, Sussex Police |
| Sheree Fielder and | Little Darlings |
| Guy Hayes | Brighton Housing Trust/Support4Housing |
| Jim McCandlish (JMC) | Enforcement Officer, CityClean (BHCC) |
| John McPhillips | Turner Area Partnership |
| Garry Meyer (GM) | Ranger Manager, BHCC |
| Claire Morgan (CM) | The Level Activity Project Officer (BHCC) |
| Max Mustali | Little Darlings |
| Sharon Nealgrove | Little Darlings |
| Steve Peters (SP) | Garden Manager, The Level |
| Trisha Rendel (TR) | Hanover Queens W.I. |
| Jonathan Ridley (JR) | Community Safety Caseworker (BHCC) |
| Roz Reyburn (RR) | Phoenix Arts Association |
| Steven Rhodes (SR) | Community member |
| Dave Samuel (DS) | David Samuel Associates |
| Cally Sykes (CS) | Substance Misuse Neighbourhood Liaison Officer (BHCC) |
| Francis Tonks | Older People's Council |
| James Weisz | Emporium |
| Jesse Wilde | Equinox Care |
| Maureen Winder (MW) | Triangle Community Group / Friends of The Level |

Apologies:

Duncan Blinkhorn (Groundwork / The Patch)
 Paul de Souza (The Druids – [PdS])
 Diane Marks (FED)
 Paul Reading (Queens Park LAT)
 Jackie Taylor (City In Bloom)

| | | Action |
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| 1 | Claire Morgan (CM) welcomed everyone. She explained the focus of this meeting was community safety, an opportunity to meet and ask questions of the key agencies with roles to play in ensuring The Level's community. Introductions from Forum members and Community Safety representatives. | |
| 2 | Notes from 11 June - approved. | |
| 3 | Community Safety: Linda Anglin (LA) explained an initial meeting had been held with key agencies and teams – many of these represented tonight. Each deals with specific community safety areas. The aim is not to remove any particular individuals or groups of concern from the park, but to take action to deal with any anti-social or criminal behaviour. In taking action, each agency/team has a role to play but all need to commit to taking a consistent approach to any issues arising. The community safety partners will continue to meet regularly. | |

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| | She asked members to consider how the Forum, and the whole community, could play a part in being the park's 'eyes and ears'; and what arrangements are needed at the park to ensure concerns are dealt with by the right people in future. | Action: Forum members bring ideas to next meeting |
| 3 | LA said Sussex Police were to establish a temporary base (initially 3 months) in the Hornbeam room (eastern pavilion.) Insp Gareth Davies (GD) said this would be a positive development as it provided on-site Police presence at the park, as well as a useful Police base as for wider area. A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) would be based there during daytime/evening, and staffing would rotate. Sussex Police sign will be erected, and there will be a table and a couple of chairs inside. GD emphasised this arrangement would not be to the detriment of policing elsewhere in the city, and was not there to "police The Level". | |
| 4 | LA confirmed there will be CCTV on a lamp column. GD said people should report "unsafe" feelings at behaviours/actions before things get out of control: better lighting and other park improvements and developments including new Garden Manager Steve Peters have key role. CM said Activities Plan will help too. | |
| 5 | Discussion about The Level's reputation versus actual reported crime. Michael Bairstow (MB) said some older people feel the park is dangerous, and asked if police would continue to use the park for public events. This was confirmed. | |
| 6 | Maureen Winder (MW) highlighted the park's tradition as a place for political gatherings, and queried what liaison with Police. GD replied protests are common city-wide and any protests involving The Level would be policed using same arrangements as others. | |
| 7 | Mat Cook (MC) asked what strategy is regarding alcohol at The Level, as he still has concerns about the café – as well as number of alcohol retailers locally and elsewhere in the city. Cally Sykes (CS) said her team's role is to bring partners together to identify and adopt alcohol misuse problem-solving approaches. Scott Crossley (SC) outlined his service, which engages individually with known substance misusers, and identifies if/what support exists or is needed. They work with police, Trading Standards and many other partners on, eg, needle exchanges, putting pressure on local retailers not to sell high-strength alcohol. It's a city-wide approach, taken to local and individual level. SC added people with concerns should always call non-emergency Police 101 number immediately. | |
| 8 | It was confirmed there is no such thing as "alcohol-free zones" in the city. | |
| 9 | SR suggested leaflets and/or on-site signs with key contact numbers. CS confirmed this being arranged. Jonathan Ridley (JR) said people should be encouraged always to report concerns, as this helps agencies target resources. Garry Meyer (GM) added Rangers Lindsay Cattanach and Peter Craske would work alongside new Garden Manager Steve Peters (SP) to keep an eye on the park, developing relationships with local residents and businesses and continuing to be part of the community safety partners group. Keeping an eye on dogs/dog owners at the park is part of this. | Action: CS, JR and team |
| 10 | MC asked about out of hours skatepark use, saying the Friends of The Level still had concerns about noise. LA said clear signage about usage hours was being erected, adding that the Brighton & Hove Skatepark Association (BHSA) members are committed to monitoring and "policing" skatepark users and maintaining good neighbourhood relations. | |
| 11 | MW said skaters need to be a key part of CoTLF, saying except at CoTLF's start, there had been no-one present to represent skate community. CM confirmed BHSA representatives invited, but said she would make further direct approaches. | CM |
| 12 | SR asked if graffiti is being allowed. LA said it is not, and confirmed vertical surfaces have anti-graffiti treatments which means any graffiti can be removed quickly and easily (this has already happened, during the build programme.) Jim McCandlish (JMC) said he will support SP when needed if graffiti appears. | |

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| 13 | MC asked about flyposting. LA said illegal flyposting would be removed, but that the community noticeboard being installed would be available to CoTLF members' community groups to promote their events and activities. | |
| 14 | Community Safety – Next steps: It was agreed the CoTLF would have three-monthly updates from Community Safety Partners. | Action: CM add to Oct 2013 agenda |
| 15 | Guy Hayes asked about BBQs. This has been discussed previously, when it was agreed this should be facilitated and managed at The Level. LA added BBQ bins were being installed. There is no city-wide policy on BBQs but signage at the Level will encourage people to use stands to prevent the lawns burning. The Level café tenants will be approached to see if they would hold a supply of BBQs for people to hire. | |
| 16 | <p>Opening Event Programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. LA said due to delays with the café build and some remaining concerns about the north lawns grass/turfing robustness, date for the grand opening has had to be delayed until late September/early October. The event planning working group (MB, MC, PdS, RR, DS and Parks Projects representatives) has produced a varied and exciting programme and continues to meet regularly. LA will update CoTLF members as soon as there is contractors' agreement on when the park is ready to host event. 2. <u>Community stands</u>: CM said several CoTLF members including U3A, WI, Alzheimer's Society, Albion in the Community & Little Darlings) had already asked to have a stall in the event's community area. Any other members wishing to be represented, let CM know. 3. <u>"LevelMakers"</u> (informal roving meeters/greeters at the event): CM working with Pavilions & Museums to design bespoke event day visitor survey. This to be loaded onto a small portable "Digivey" device. Forum members interested in taking charge of this on the day to collect visitor responses, or other Forum members wishing to be a LevelMaker, contact CM. | <p>Action (Pt 2): Interested Forum members to contact CM.</p> <p>Action (Pt 3): Interested Forum members to contact CM.</p> |
| 17 | LA added the majority of the southern end of the park and the skatepark were on schedule to open at the end of July. This will be widely publicised. | |
| 18 | <u>Disability Awareness Training</u> (run by the FED): MB, TR and Boo Hodges (Colourwheels) attended this on behalf of the Forum. TR said she and MB had found this very valuable and illuminating: course covered history of disability awareness, language used here and elsewhere for people with disabilities, people's attitudes to disabled people and how this can have wide-ranging negative impacts on their lives ("social disability"). Break-out groups discussed how improvements could be made for people with various disabilities or other particular requirements. CM added she had had a separate conversation with the course leader Jon Hastie from the FED, and was interested in conducting a (filmed) tour of The Level once open, assessing its physical and social accessibility. This could then go online and act as a form of guide for those with disabilities. Little Darlings representatives said they would be happy to give input to this. | Action: CM contact FED/Little Darlings after park re-opening. |
| 19 | <p><u>AOB:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Caisie's tree": CM gave update, showing photo of special tree-planting ceremony held at The Level for Caisie's friends and relatives. There is also a commemorative plaque 2. BBC South-East item: CM passed round web link to item broadcast about The Level history project. It features interviews with some of those whose oral histories were collected for oral history project (these to be featured in the history exhibition in the pavilions at opening event). | |
| 20 | <u>Date of next meeting:</u> Tuesday 6 August, 6-7.30pm at Salvation Army as usual. | |